



Office of the Deputy Commissioner

HEALTH SERVICES

Mills/Jarrett Complex, Box 101106

Columbia, SC 29211-0106

Telephone: (803) 898-0800 FAX: (803) 898-0557

Mills/Jarrett Complex
Box 101106
Columbia, SC 29211-0106

July 28, 2003

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Dear Parents / Guardians:

We are writing to ask for your help with ensuring that your child's school is a healthy place to learn. All schools have received this letter to send home with students. Receiving this letter does not mean that your child's school has a problem.

Beginning in 2003, SC DHEC is required by law to publish lists of those conditions that if children are affected should not attend school and childcare settings. Since the lists tell when students should be excluded from (not attend) school, they are sometimes called "Exclusion Lists." There is an exclusion list for schools and also one for out-of-home childcare settings. We are sending copies of both lists to you. The lists can also be found on the SC DHEC website at www.scdhec.net. The purpose of excluding children with illnesses is to prevent the spread of diseases among students by asking that children with such diseases stay out of school.

For some of the conditions on the list, parents will be able to tell that the child is not well enough to attend school. However, for some illnesses, only a medical person will be able to tell if the child has a reason to be kept out of school. If your child has one of the conditions on the list, please keep your child out of school and notify the school within 24 hours. Sometimes it may be hard to tell whether to send your child to school. If you think your child may have an infection that can be spread to other children, keep the child out of school and check with your physician. The lists tell you the type of note that your child will need in order to return to school.

We hope that your child never has to miss a school day because of illness or disease. The best protection from disease is prevention. Two important ways to help prevent childhood diseases from spreading is to make sure that your children have their immunizations and that they wash their hands often.

If you have any questions about the Exclusion Lists or ways to help your child remain healthy, please call your child's school or your local health department. Thank you for helping us to keep schools a healthy place to learn.

Sincerely,

Lisa F. Waddell, M.D., M.P.H.
Deputy Commissioner

Attachments